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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Adjustment Administration  
Washington, D. C.



August 28, 1941

STATEMENT BY AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION  
CONCERNING STATE AGRICULTURAL PLANNING COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATIONS

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In general the recommendations of the State Land-Use Planning Committees are in accord with the policies of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. A large percentage of the recommendations have been included in previous programs and are included in the present provisions of the 1942 Agricultural Conservation Program. Many of these recommendations were considered by the National Agricultural Adjustment Administration Conference in June 1941.

Budgetary considerations, departmental policy problems, and lack of authority would prevent the expansion of some of the phases of the program to the extent recommended in several instances by the planning committees.

Increased emphasis is placed on soil conservation in the 1942 Agricultural Conservation Program. Maximum allotment payments in the 1942 program are dependent upon achieving soil-conserving goals. On all farms on which one or more acreage allotments are applicable, there will be a requirement that a certain proportion of the land be devoted to soil-conserving or erosion-resisting uses or that a minimum soil-building performance or farm conservation plan be carried out.

A larger amount of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration funds will be available for soil-building practices in 1942 than in previous years. The county committee with the approval of the State Committee may specify for any group of farms in the county a proportion of the soil-building allowance which may be earned only by carrying out designated soil-building practices which are most needed and are not routine.

In order to avoid the necessity of a special program for each county, general provisions are drafted to designate a considerable amount of authority to county committees in administering the program. It is believed that this is the most democratic and most desirable approach as a method of providing for area variations.

The rates of payment for soil-building practices listed in the bulletin are maximum rates and shall, if necessary, in order to reflect relative costs or desirability of a practice for any State or area within a State, be adjusted downward by the State committee. The practice rate for seeding permanent grasses or permanent pasture mixtures was increased in order to encourage more pasture improvement.

Increased emphasis is being placed upon provisions of the program which permit committees to designate soil-building practices which are needed and to bring about adjustments in production which are desirable in the Defense Program.

In the program for 1942, with the exception of surplus feed-producing areas, the total allotment features have not been continued. In surplus feed-producing areas, fewer crops are included in the total farm allotment. The commercial vegetable acreage restrictions have also been removed. The removal of these restrictions and the modification of the

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total allotment in surplus feed-producing areas permits greater flexibility in crop production and should encourage an increase in the crops for which an increase is desirable for the Defense Program.

A suggestion of modifying the procedure for determining allotments to prevent lags in desirable adjustments raises the question of finding a procedure which will be more acceptable than the historical base. It should be pointed out that consumers' interests must be protected in establishing acreage allotments by insuring that allotments are established on farms having adequate production facilities and experience with respect to the particular crop. State and county committees are reluctant to make full use of the latitude for judgment factors which they have in establishing some allotments. They are willing to use their discretion to a limited extent but like to have rather tangible formulae to aid in establishing equitable allotments.

The special program in the Southern Great Plains is an attempt to remove some of the emphasis on wheat allotments and increase the payments for soil-conserving land use. The greatest hurdle to overcome in reducing the export crops is to find alternate land uses which will result in adequate income for the farm and for the area in order to support the farm population which, at present, cannot find work outside of agriculture. Special programs might also be worked out to help solve particular problems in other areas.

The execution of a farm-plan sheet is one of the requirements for co-operating in the conservation program in most of the States at the present time. The committeemen helps the farmer plan his farming operations for

the coming year in order to help him keep his operations in line with his acreage allotments. The farm-plan procedure, to a varying extent, affords an opportunity to encourage the farmer to carry out soil-building practices which are most needed on the farm and which are not routine.

There may be additional use in limited areas in 1942 for the longtime conservation farm-plan method of meeting the soil-conserving goals similar to the Alabama Plan.

The 1942 program includes many provisions which county committees and State committees may use to encourage shifts in production of certain crops and to increase soil conservation. There is a deduction made in areas designated by Agricultural Adjustment Administration as subject to serious wind or water erosion hazards if methods are not adopted for the prevention of wind or water erosion or both. There is a deduction for breaking out native sod, restoration land, and other land with permanent vegetation cover in certain areas.

If practices performed and paid for under previous programs are not maintained, deductions will be made. All or any part of any payment may be withheld if practices are adopted which defeat the purposes of the 1942 or previous programs or if, with respect to grazing lands, forest land, or woodland owned or controlled by him, a person adopts or has adopted any practice which is contrary to sound conservation practices. No payment is made if a person is careless or negligent in his farming operations by failing to carry out approved erosion-control measures on land under his control to the extent that any part of such land has become an erosion hazard to other land in the community.

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration would welcome more definite and detailed recommendations with respect to some of the problems and recommendations which have been presented in general terms. This is particularly true with respect to the problems and implications in (1) finding alternate uses of land to replace surplus crops, (2) the desire of people to continue farming and to remain in their present homes, and (3) the disposition of surplus families and individuals now being supported on farms by agriculture.

The suggestions and recommendations of the planning committees are welcomed by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and it is giving consideration to them in the administration and development of the Agricultural Conservation Program.

s/ Harry N. Schooler  
Acting Administrator  
Agricultural Adjustment  
Administration





